

What is an educational prescription?

It's a learning assignment co-written by preceptor and learner that

- specifies the clinical problem that generated the question.
- states the question, in all 4 of its key elements (PICO)
- specifies who is responsible for answering it.
- reminds everyone of the deadline for answering it (taking into account the urgency of the clinical problem that generated it).

Why use educational prescriptions?

Questions arise but they don't always get followed up because clinical constraints and fatigue often limit our opportunities. Using educational prescriptions helps us keep track of our questions so that we can answer them when an opportunity develops. Prescriptions help learners practice the important lifelong habit of using EBM on a daily basis to help answer clinical questions.

Tips for using educational prescriptions

- Include them as a regular part of rounds, sign-outs and supervision.
- Ask your learners to write educational prescriptions for you.
- Keep a copy of the prescription for you and the service's chief resident.
- Use the opportunity to introduce the learner to a University librarian who can help 'fill' the prescription.
- Follow-up with the learner on the pre-specified date.

Resources:

<http://www.mclibrary.duke.edu/respub/guides/ebm/index.html>

(Modified from

<http://www.cebm.utoronto.ca/practise/formulate/eduprescript.htm>.)

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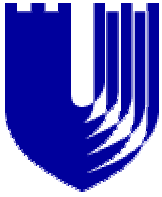
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EDUCATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

Patient's Initials/MRN: _____ Learner: _____

4-part Clinical Question

Patient or Problem:

Intervention:

Comparison:

Outcome(s):

Type of question:

Study type:

Date and place to present findings: _____

Presentation will cover:

1. search strategy
2. search results
3. appraisal of the validity of the evidence
4. appraisal of the importance of the results
5. application to the patient/problem
6. your self-evaluation of this process

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